

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Stephen W. Hillier, et al.

Examiner:

Benjamin E. Lanier

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Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SECURE COMMUNICATIONS USING THIRD-PARTY KEY PROVIDER

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 Certificate of First Class Mailing

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450, on this date.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed August 19, 2005, Applicants submit the following amendment and response.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 15 of this paper.